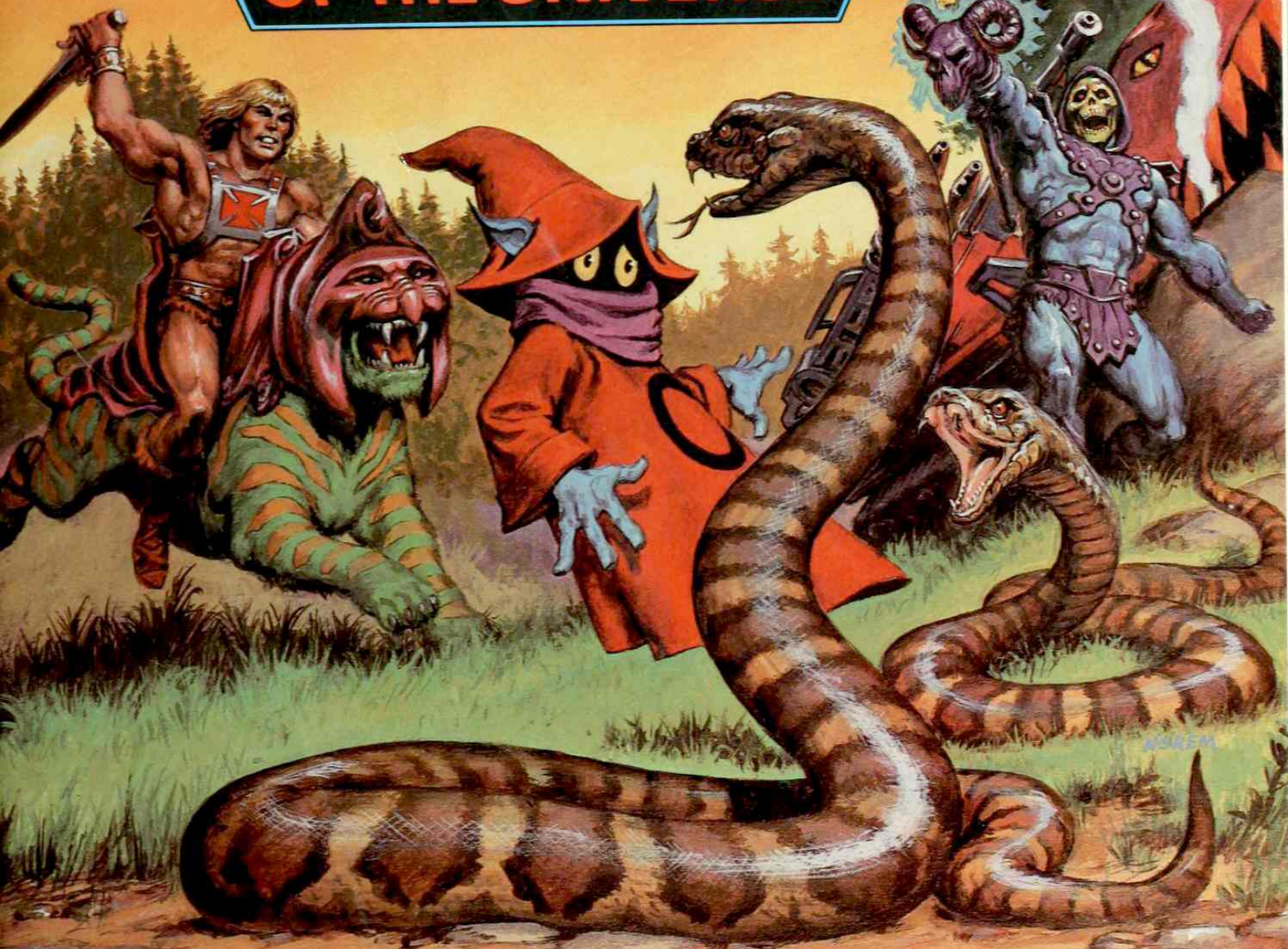




MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™

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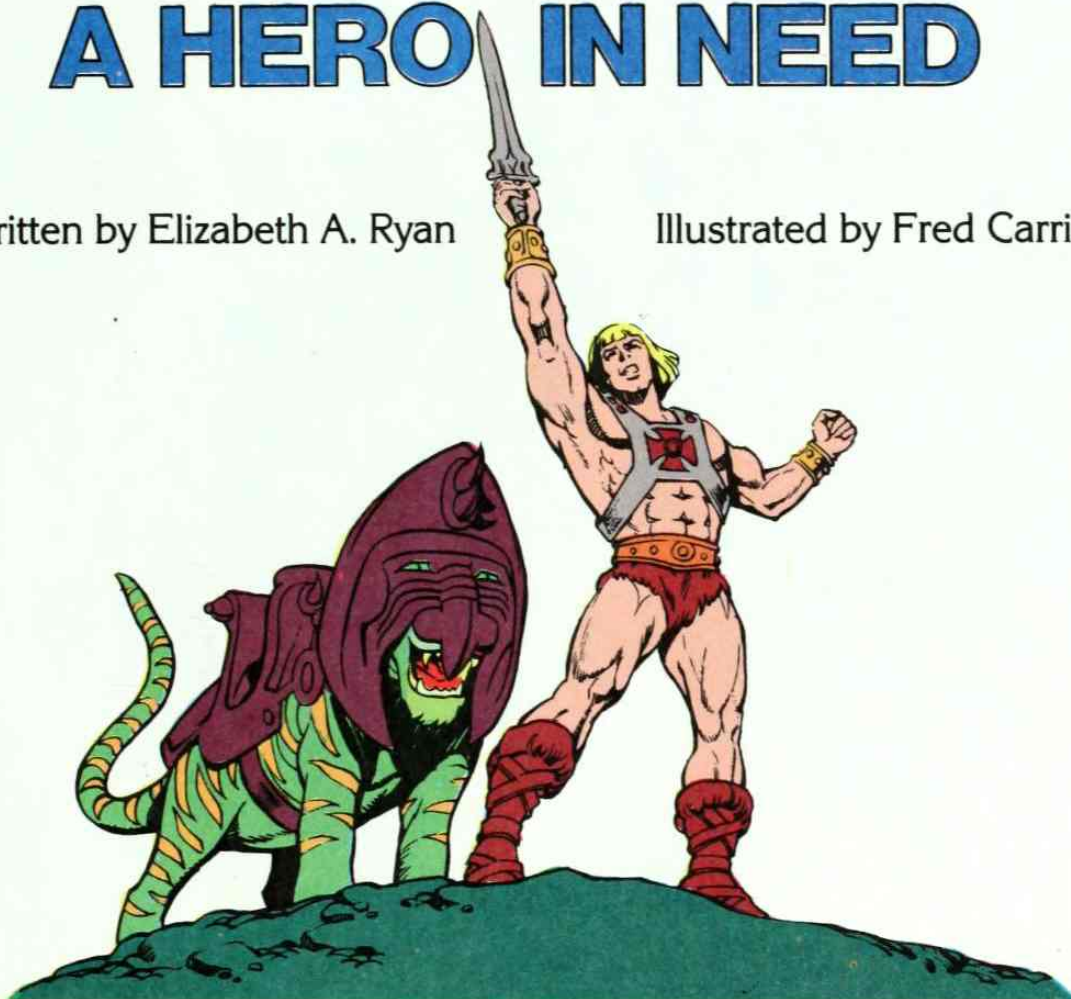
A HERO IN NEED

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™

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Written by Elizabeth A. Ryan

Illustrated by Fred Carrillo



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A B C D E F G H I J

Orko and Cringer were playing Monsters and Magic among the trees of the Evergreen Forest.

"I'll catch you next time," Orko said with a laugh as he just missed Cringer.

Cringer darted a few feet away from Orko. The two of them were having so much fun that they didn't see the evil Skeletor in his Land Shark, lurking in the shadows of the forest.

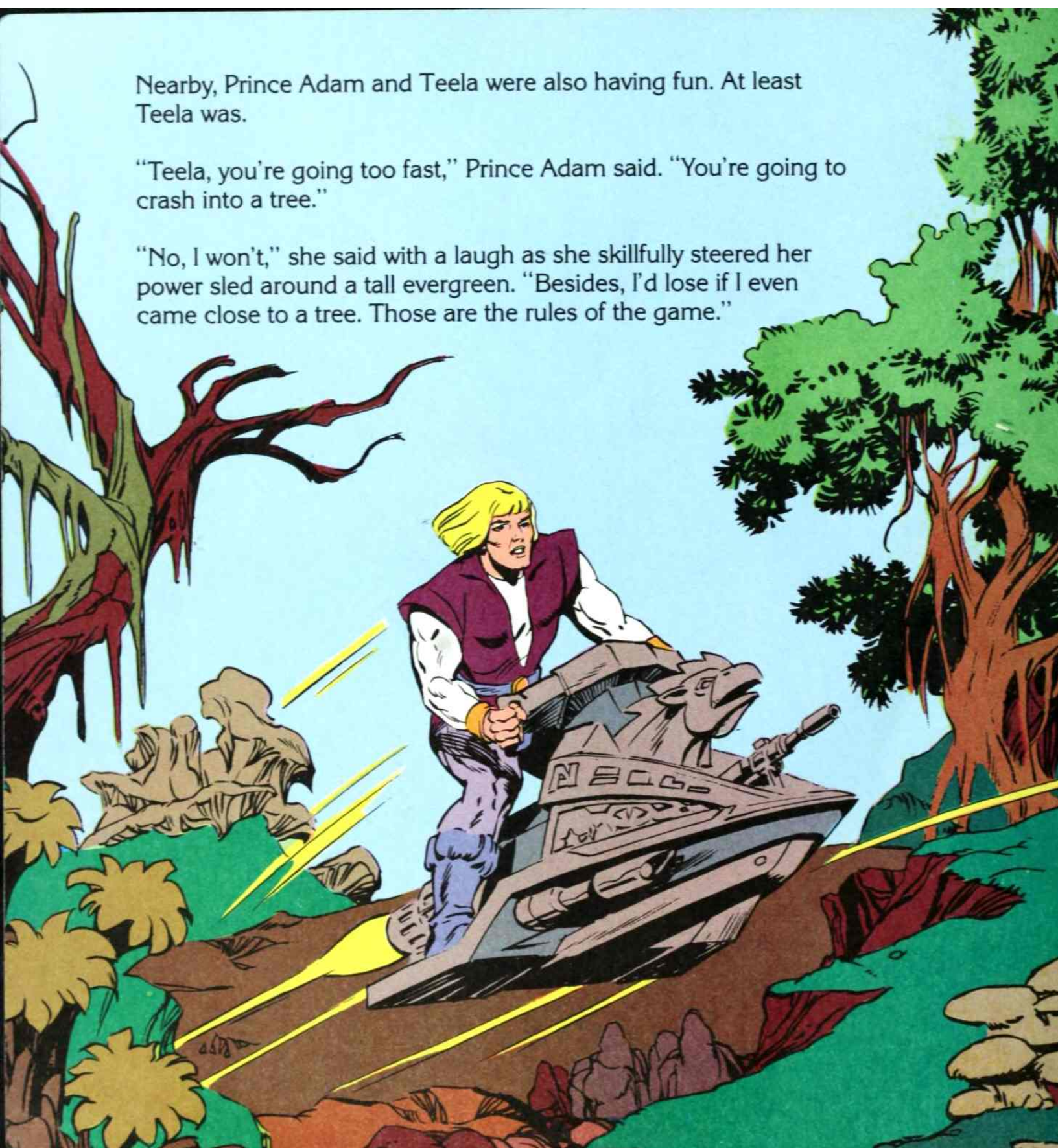




Nearby, Prince Adam and Teela were also having fun. At least Teela was.

"Teela, you're going too fast," Prince Adam said. "You're going to crash into a tree."

"No, I won't," she said with a laugh as she skillfully steered her power sled around a tall evergreen. "Besides, I'd lose if I even came close to a tree. Those are the rules of the game."





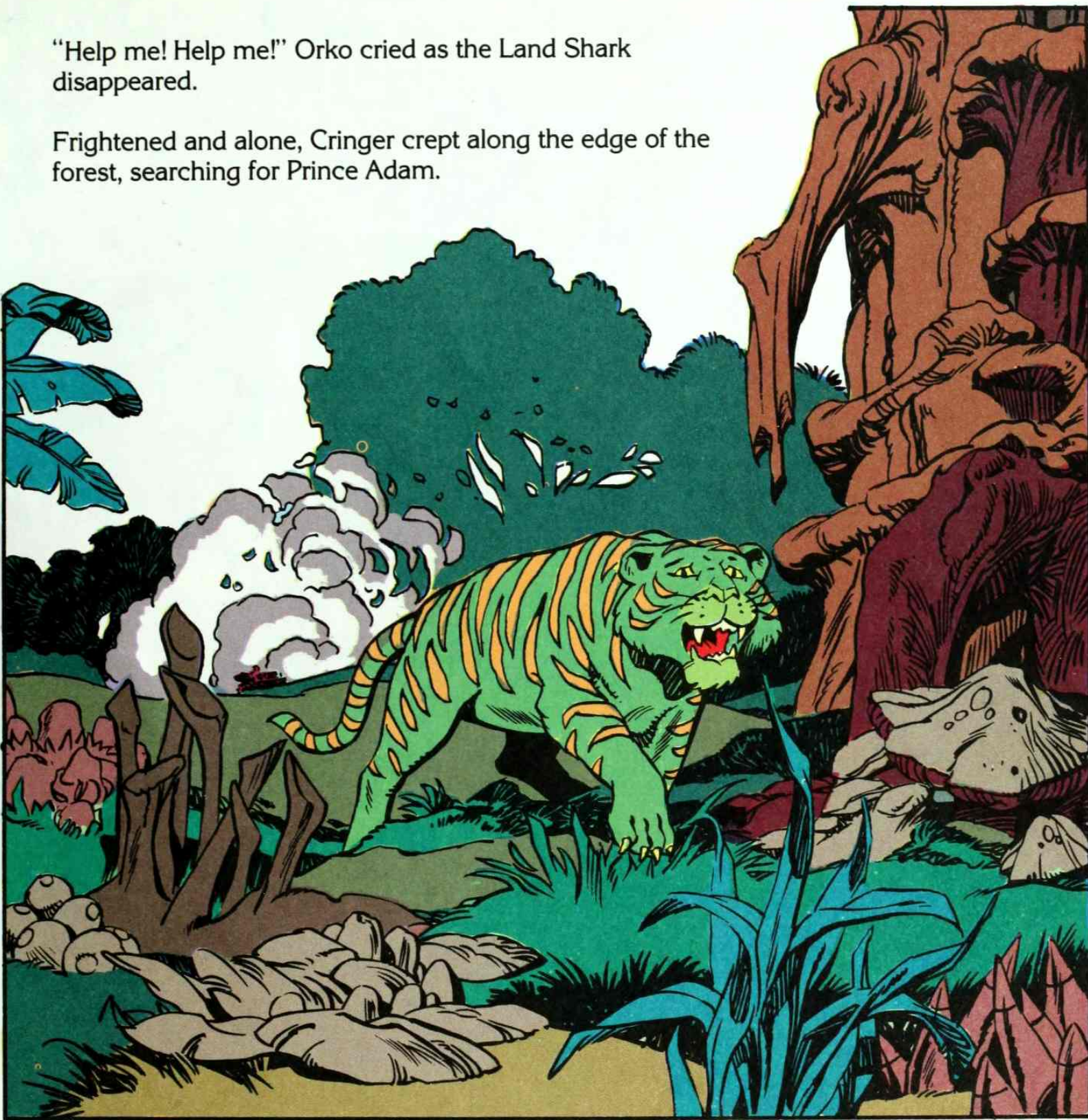
Suddenly Skeletor roared out of his hiding place and seized Orko in the powerful jaws of the Land Shark. Cringer was paralyzed with fright and couldn't do anything to help his friend escape.

"I am taking you hostage, Orko," Skeletor cackled. "Let me see how well you work your magic now. And when He-Man comes to rescue you from Snake Mountain, I will finally destroy him."



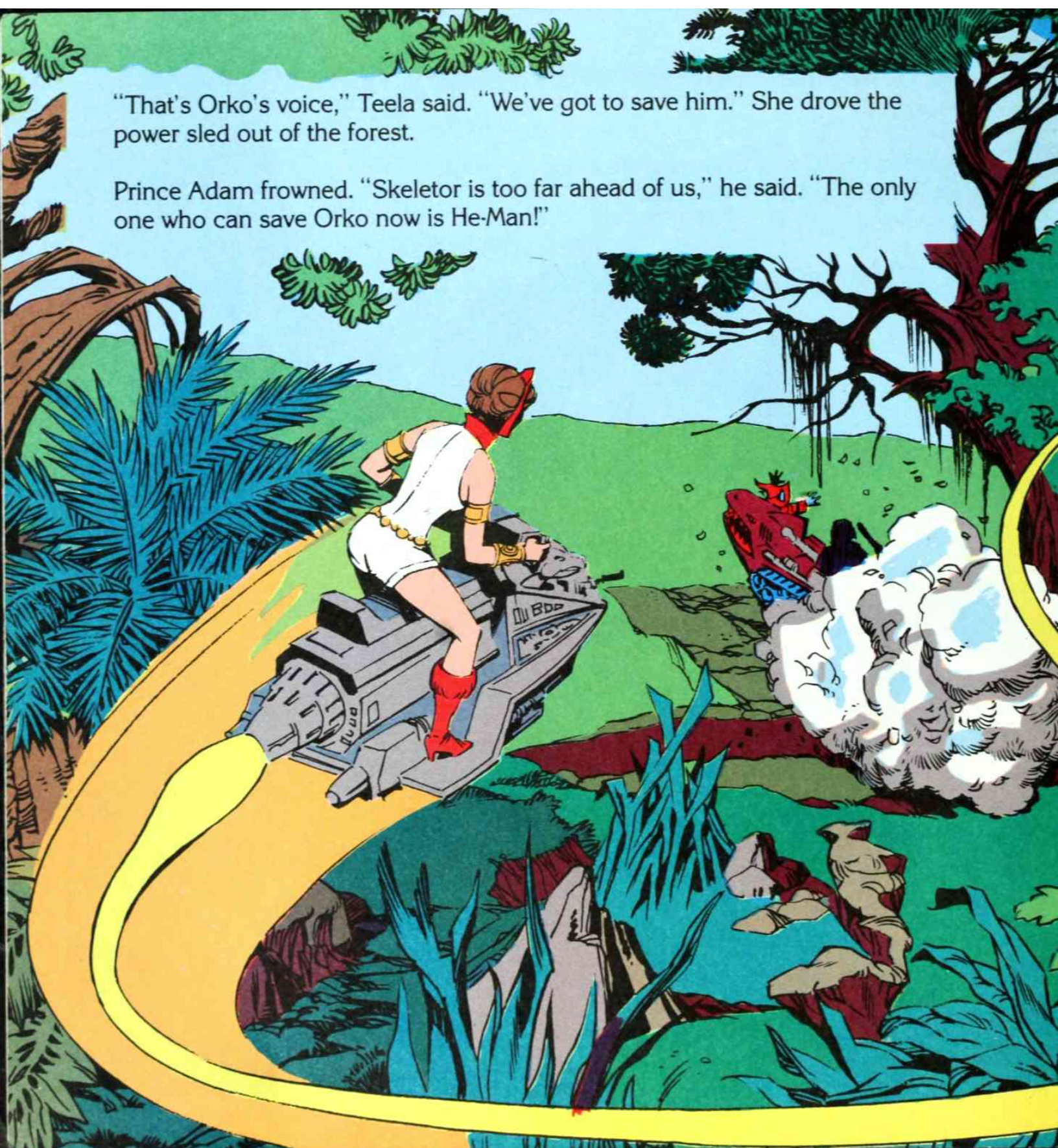
"Help me! Help me!" Orko cried as the Land Shark disappeared.

Frightened and alone, Cringer crept along the edge of the forest, searching for Prince Adam.



"That's Orko's voice," Teela said. "We've got to save him." She drove the power sled out of the forest.

Prince Adam frowned. "Skeletor is too far ahead of us," he said. "The only one who can save Orko now is He-Man!"





Now to slip
away!

"You may be right," Teela said, "but how can we alert him?"

"I'm going to look for him now," Prince Adam answered. Before Teela could protest, he leaped from the power sled.

Teela roared off in the vehicle to try to catch Skeletor.



Sheltered by the trees,
Prince Adam seized the Power
Sword from its hiding place.

"By the power of Grayskull," he
cried, and in a blaze of light he
turned into the mighty He-Man.

Then he pointed the sword at
Cringer, who had come trotting
up. Magic power transformed
the frightened tiger into the
fierce Battle Cat.



He-Man and Battle Cat quickly caught up with Teela, who was aiming her powerful laser gun at Skeletor.

"I'm going to stun that evil monster," Teela warned.

"You're a great shot, Teela," He-Man answered, "but I don't think even you can hit Skeletor at this distance. I'm going to catch up with him."



Teela was puzzled. "Where is Prince Adam?" she wondered. "He was here just a few minutes ago."

"Prince Adam! Prince Adam!" she called into the forest. But the only answer she received was silence.



As He-Man and Battle Cat gained on Skeletor, the evil fiend tried to turn around and see who was pursuing him. But traveling at such high speed, he needed to watch where he was going.

"I'll stop whoever that is right now!" Skeletor hissed. "No one is going to take away my prize." He raised his Havoc Staff and sent an enormous beast to block the path.

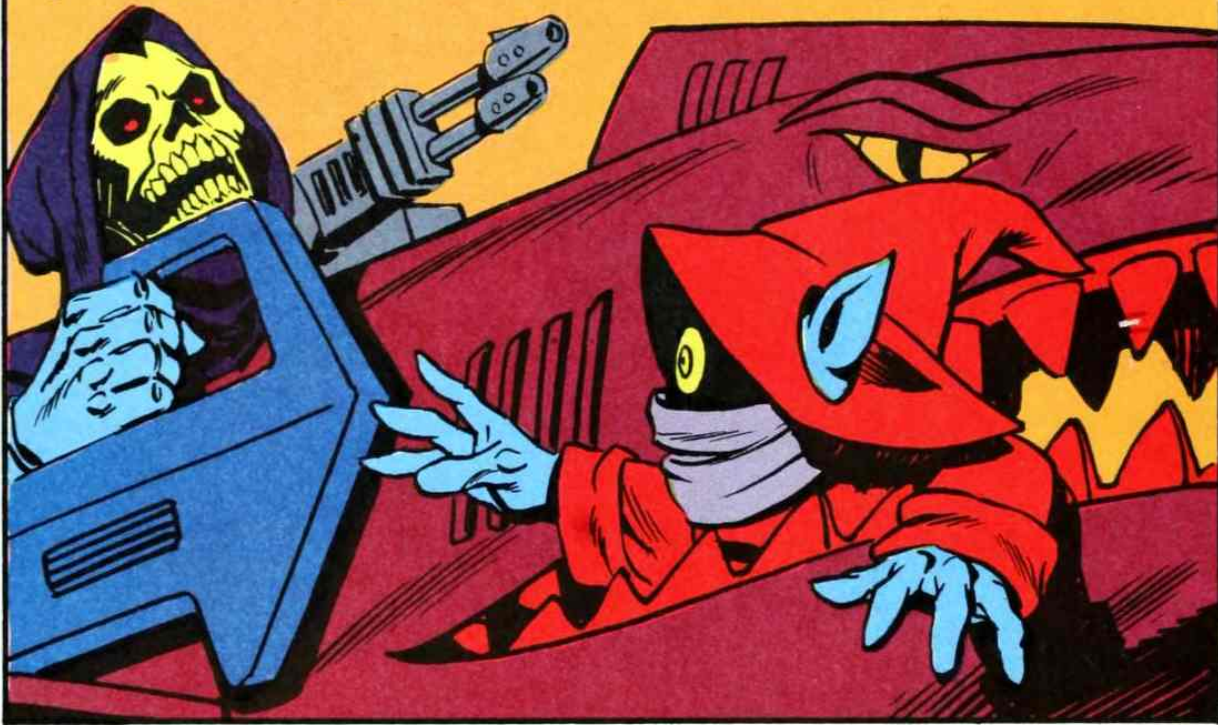


But He-Man swept the creature aside with one stroke of his Power Sword.



Orko, still fixed in the jaws of the Land Shark, could not resist turning his head around to mock Skeletor. "You were awfully foolish to snatch me away with He-Man around."

"You stupid little creature," Skeletor answered with an evil laugh. "He-Man wasn't there. Prince Adam was. That sorry excuse for a prince can't save you from me!"

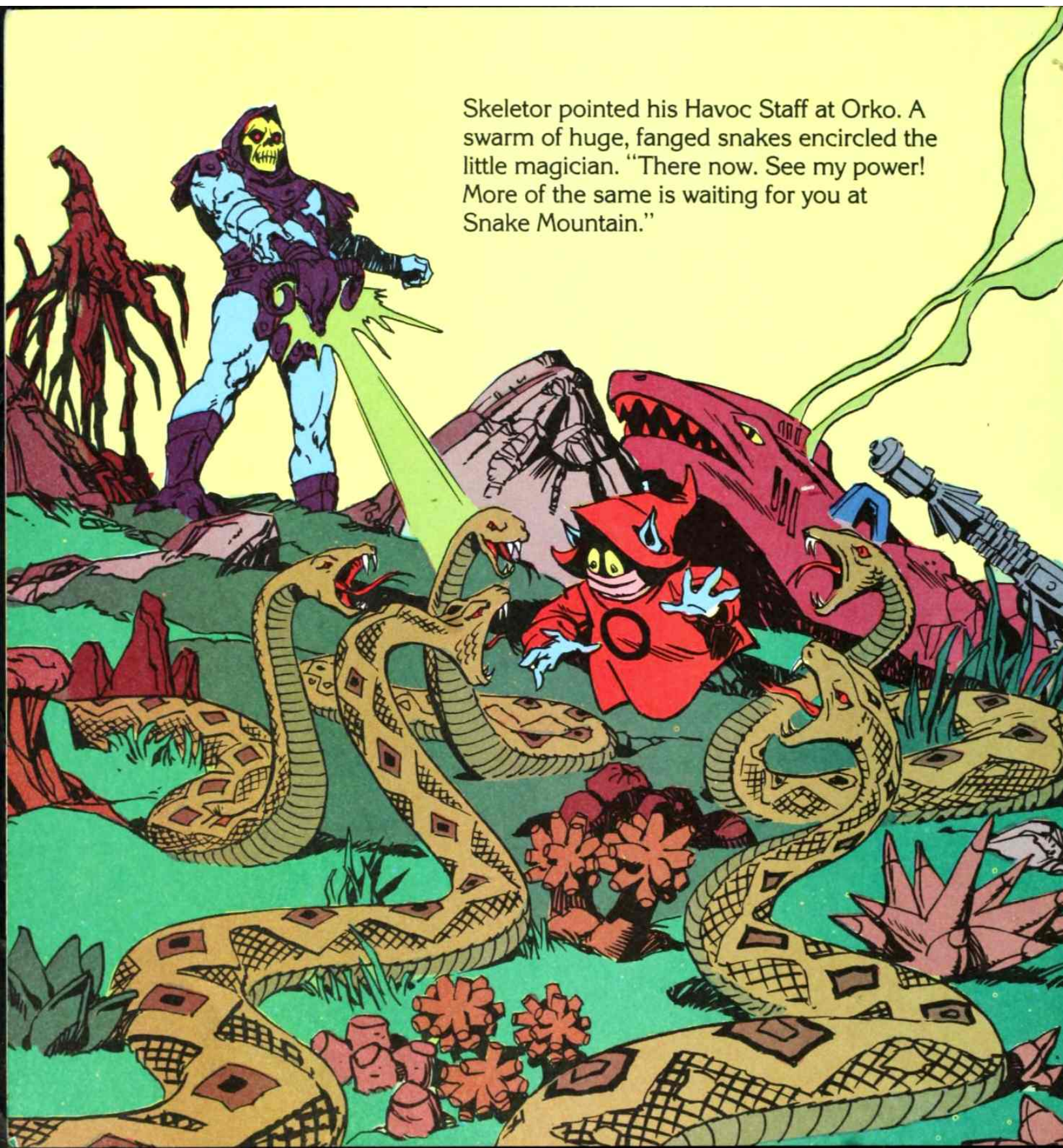


Skeletor laughed so hard that his hands came loose from the controls of the Land Shark. Without Skeletor's guidance, the vehicle crashed into a boulder, spilling him onto the ground with a thud. Luckily the accident freed Orko from the jaws that had imprisoned him.





Skeletor pointed his Havoc Staff at Orko. A swarm of huge, fanged snakes encircled the little magician. "There now. See my power! More of the same is waiting for you at Snake Mountain."



"How powerful are you now, Skeletor?" He-Man challenged as he stunned the fiend with his Power Sword.

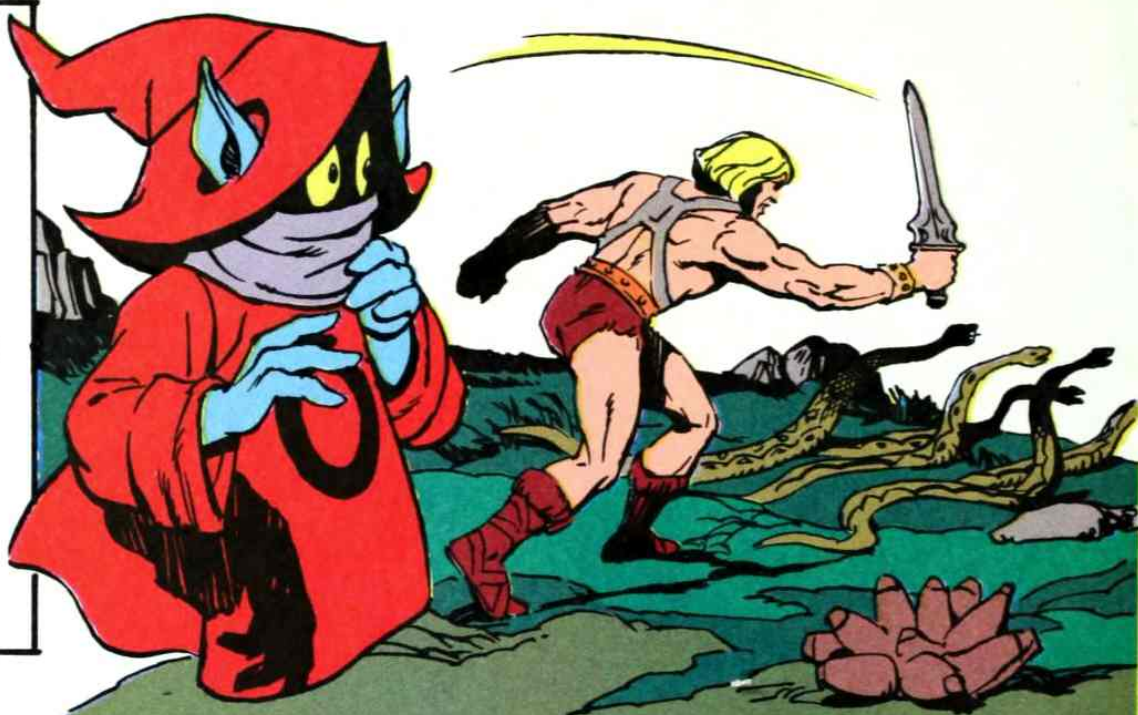


Before He-Man could say another word, Skeletor disappeared in a cloud of smoke.



Slashing away at the snakes, He-Man said, "You're free now, Orko."

"You arrived just in time," Orko said. "I was getting really scared. I'm glad you were nearby when Skeletor grabbed me. Thank you, He-Man."



"How did you know He-Man was in the forest, Orko?" Teela asked. "The only other person I saw was Prince Adam."

Orko thought quickly. He had to keep Prince Adam's identity a secret. "Oh, I saw He-Man pass by while Cringer and I were playing Monsters and Magic."



Teela frowned. "Where is Prince Adam anyway? I looked for him and couldn't find him anywhere. In fact, I can't ever remember He-Man and Prince Adam being around at the same time."

In order to protect He-Man, Orko said, "It's no problem. I'll go find him myself." Then he disappeared behind some trees.



Orko tried his best magic. "Adam Shazzadam. Appear, Prince Adam," he muttered. But only a small butterfly flew out of his sleeve.

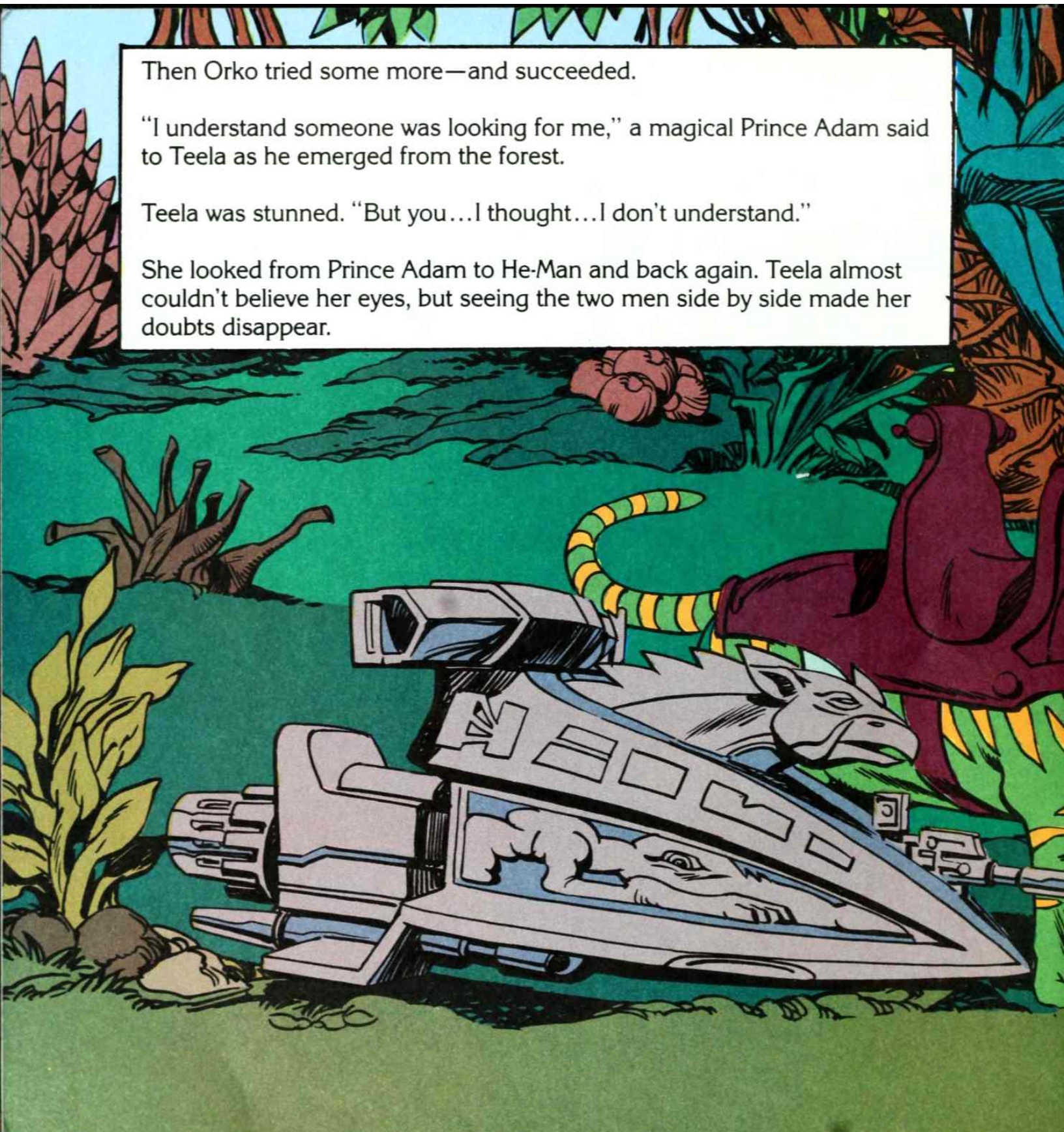


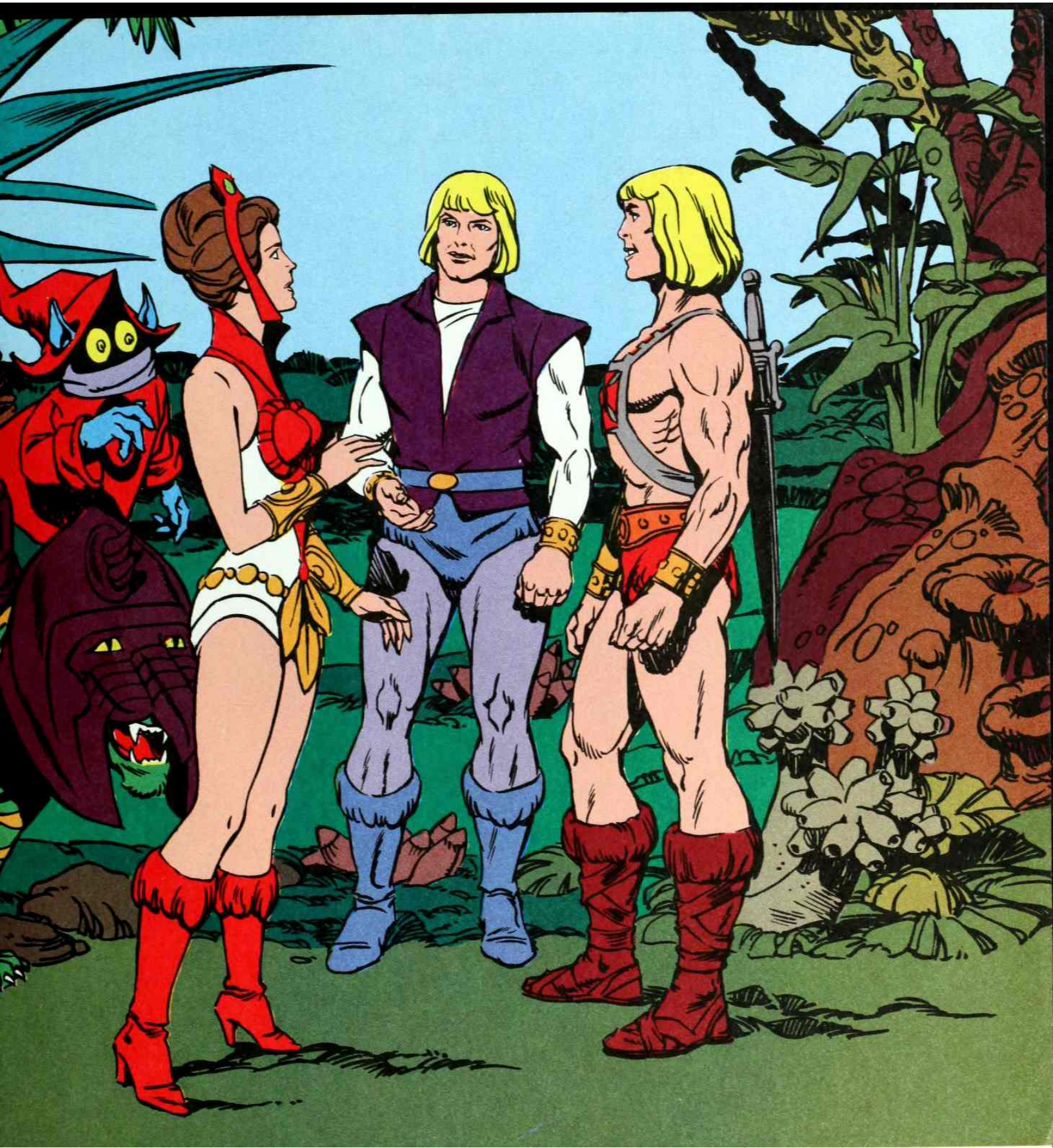
Then Orko tried some more—and succeeded.

“I understand someone was looking for me,” a magical Prince Adam said to Teela as he emerged from the forest.

Teela was stunned. “But you...I thought...I don’t understand.”

She looked from Prince Adam to He-Man and back again. Teela almost couldn’t believe her eyes, but seeing the two men side by side made her doubts disappear.

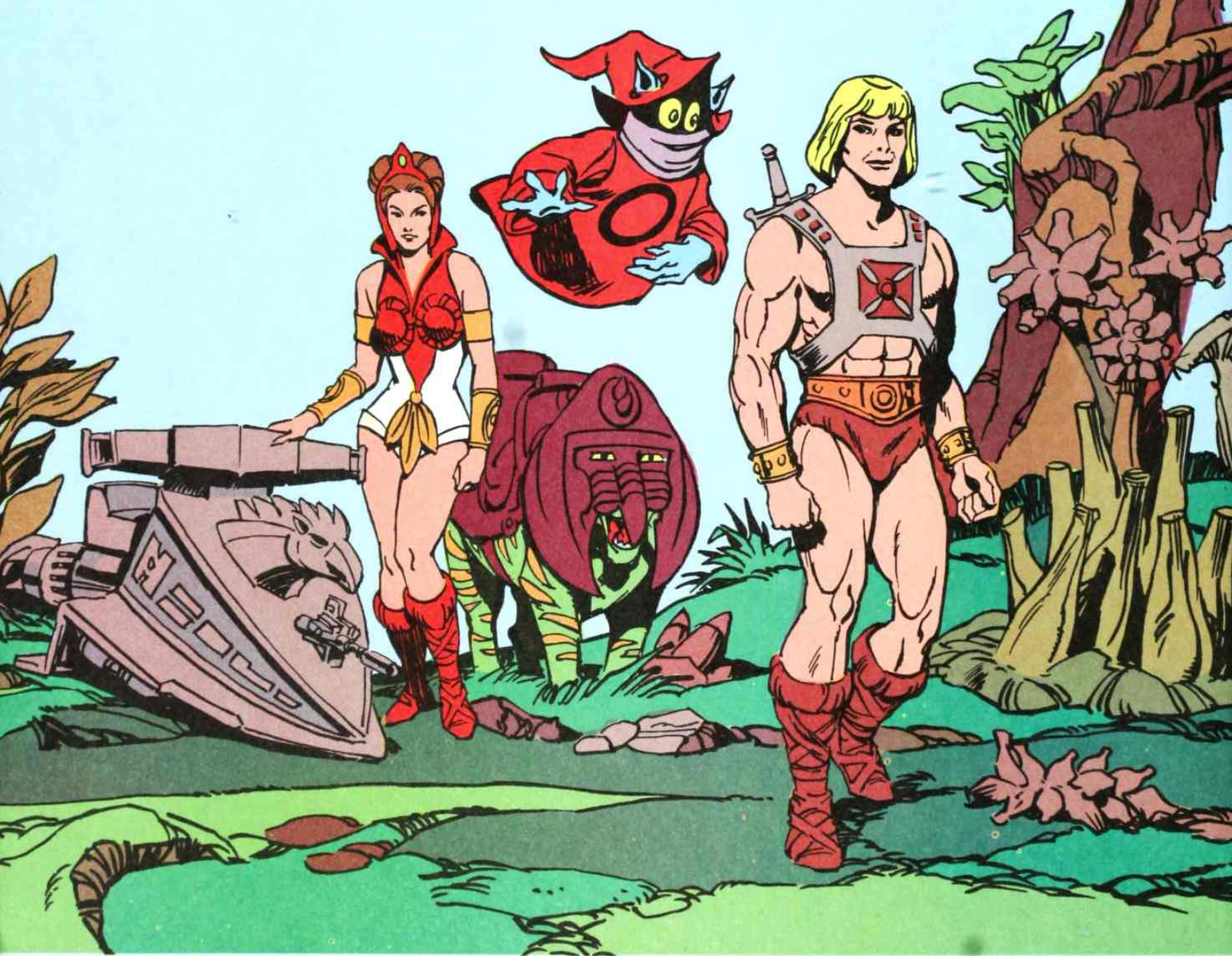




He-Man nodded to Orko and the two moved a few feet away from Teela.

"That was very clever of you, Orko." He-Man said, smiling. "Your magic was great. It helped to keep my identity a secret. Thank you, my friend."

Orko bowed his head shyly. "It wasn't so special. After all, I was only helping out a friend who freed me from the clutches of Skeletor. You, too, are a friend indeed."





MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™

Mounted on the mighty Battle Cat, He-Man, the most powerful man in the universe, rides across the planet of Eternia. He is ready to defend it against the forces of evil—led by the dreaded Skeletor.

To protect his identity, He-Man stays disguised as the unassuming Prince Adam until the need arises. Then, by the power of Grayskull, he lifts his sword and transforms himself into the champion of Eternia.

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